

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending July 14, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Strawberry and Raspberry Harvest Kept Processors Busy
High Temperatures Rapidly Ripen Spring and Winter Crops**

FIELD CROPS

Grain ripened rapidly, due to the hot temperatures mid-week, while farmers along the western edge of Whitman County prepared for grain harvest. In Asotin and Garfield Counties, high temperatures hurt yield and quality for crops in the critical filling stages. Timothy hay was cut and baled in Pend Oreille County, and growers liked the warm weather for drying. Lightning from recent thunderstorms ignited some fires in the Rock Lake area. Potato growers continued harvest of early varieties. Sweet corn growers irrigated around the clock to keep plants turgid.

LIVESTOCK

Dairymen continued making silage and baling hay under ideal conditions. In Douglas and Chelan Counties, supplemental feeding was not currently required, but pasture was marginal. Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 10% poor, 77% fair and 12% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

In Skagit County, rain received early in the week was needed by most crops, but wreaked havoc on the strawberry quality and yields. Strawberry harvest conclusion is about a week away while raspberry harvest just began. Berry harvest kept processors and growers very busy. Cherry losses in Douglas and Chelan Counties were estimated at 50% due to the April and May freezes.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
7.0	6.6

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	3	39	58	0
Subsoil	0	30	70	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	1	20	78	1
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	100	98	99	99
Barley Headed	100	97	99	99
Winter Wheat Harvested	2	1	4	3
Potatoes Harvested	15	5	6	4
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	67	37	79	71
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	5	0	4	1
Dry Peas Harvested	2	0	3	1
Green Peas Harvested	95	NA	98	72

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	8	40	38	13
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	83	17
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	14	49	29	7
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	80	20
Barley Dryland	0	10	54	31	5
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	82	18
Potatoes	0	0	7	83	10
Corn	0	0	6	94	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	13	85	1
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

** Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.*

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn growers were irrigating around the clock to keep plants turgid under very warm conditions. Commercial raspberry harvest started in the Wynoochee Valley. Christmas tree growers continued to monitor true firs for aphid infestations. Potato growers continued harvest of early varieties. Spring flower bulb harvest began in the Satsop Valley. Dairymen continued making silage and baling hay under ideal conditions.

Skagit: About an inch of rain early in the week was much needed by most crops, but wreaked havoc on strawberries. Yields and quality until then were extremely high. Harvest conclusion is about a week away. Raspberry harvest began and the crop looks good. Hot weather, in the 80's, was accelerating fruit

development. Processors were struggling to keep ahead, with both strawberries and raspberries coming in. Berry growers were experiencing a shortage of labor. Processing pea harvest began.

Thurston: Very warm temperatures quickly depleted soil moisture from last weekend's rain. Turfgrass farmers, dairymen, vegetable and blueberry producers were all irrigating. Christmas tree growers reported sunburn damage (annual needle necrosis) to trees, as a result of 93 degree temperatures on Wednesday. Livestock producers continued making hay under ideal curing conditions. Blueberry growers continued to predict an average crop, as early varieties continued to ripen.

CENTRAL

Benton: Cherry harvest was nearly complete. Apricots were being harvested. Extremely hot temperatures had irrigation going constantly. Wheat harvest began. Recent hail did not do much damage in Benton County.

Douglas/Chelan: Pasture did not recover from last year's drought. Supplemental feeding was not currently required; however, pasture was marginal. Cherry harvest was continuing. Cherry losses were estimated at 50% due to April and May freezes. Canola harvest was expected to begin this week. Winter wheat was stressed due to lack of moisture. Harvest will begin in some areas within the week.

Franklin: Temperatures were very hot during much of the week. A weekend storm brought hail to fields in a limited area around Pasco. Alfalfa cutting continued.

Grant: Apricot and mid-season cherry harvest was underway. Crucifer seed harvest was underway. Record high temperatures stressed many crops.

Okanogan/Ferry: Producers just began swathing their second cutting of alfalfa hay. Higher mountain pastures seemed to be in pretty good shape with lower elevation pastures being dry.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally above normal, ranging from 1 degree below normal to 22 degrees above normal, with a high temperature of 105 degrees on July 12 and 13. There was .02 inch of precipitation on July 8. No crop losses due to the hot weather were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Winter wheat harvest should be in full swing by the end of the week throughout the county, after extremely hot, dry weather last week enhanced ripening. Spring cereal conditions were downgraded to 10% very poor, 40% poor, and only 50% in fair condition after last week's weather. Crop conditions were also downgraded because of increased Russian thistle germination and light precipitation during the past month. This may require farmers to apply a burndown chemical on the crop so it can be harvested.

Asotin/Garfield: Extreme heat, 100-110 degree temperatures were experienced during the week. Crops in the lower elevations were probably not affected as most crops were near harvest stage. However, in higher elevations, where crops were in the critical filling stages, the heat hurt yield prospects and quality.

Lincoln: Winter wheat harvest should be starting in certain areas in the county this week.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Record hot temperatures pushed crops closer to maturity. Temperatures in the 100's showed how shallow some of the spring crops root systems were, causing light soiled areas to blue from stress. Grass seed harvest began pretty good, but had bad yields. Timothy hay was cut and baled in Pend Oreille County and the growers liked the warm temperatures for drying. The crop looked average to above average.

Walla Walla: Dry pea harvest continued. In areas hit by spring frost, about two thirds of the crop was lost. Wheat harvest began. Recent temperatures were over 100 degrees F and are now coming down.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The weather was hot over the weekend. Dry pea harvest began. Some producers in drier areas of the county began to cut winter wheat. Conditions overall looked good.

Whitman: The county experienced a week of extremes in the weather. The week started with cool, windy conditions with scattered showers and turned to very hot conditions by mid-week. Grain ripened rapidly, due to the hot temperatures mid-week, and farmers along the western edge of the county anticipate beginning grain harvest within a few days.

Whitman (2nd Report): Thunderstorms hit the area Sunday and Monday, adding more precipitation in most areas of the county. Unfortunately, lightning ignited some fires in the Rock Lake area. Temperatures over 100 degrees were reported during mid-week, rapidly ripening spring and winter crops. Conditions looked very good despite the excessive heat. Harvest in early areas may begin in 7-10 days.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
July 14, 2002

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	48	80	63	2	91	7	22	2	0.40	0.10	1	33.05	-1.04	97	156
Everett	50	81	63	1	93	6	24	3	0.89	0.61	1	31.03	-3.42	90	163
Hoquiam	52	83	62	3	85	15	15	8	0.04	-0.24	1	63.68	-2.09	97	177
Kelso	54	91	69	6	131	38	61	33	0.00	-0.21	0	40.61	-3.96	91	153
Olympia	47	94	67	5	120	33	50	29	0.03	-0.17	1	58.75	9.83	120	168
Seattle-Tacoma	54	89	67	3	123	18	53	18	0.53	0.35	1	38.18	2.48	107	149
Shelton	46	94	66	3	115	14	45	10	0.00	-0.21	0	68.48	5.30	108	159
Tacoma	50	91	68	4	126	28	56	24	0.20	-0.01	1	30.00	-8.55	78	128
Vancouver	53	97	72	8	156	56	86	53	0.25	0.04	1	37.43	-2.27	94	153
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	41	101	73	6	164	40	94	38	0.09	0.02	1	7.03	-1.40	83	85
Omak	52	104	77	11	191	72	121	69	0.41	0.27	1	9.24	-4.38	68	72
Stampede Pass	42	85	62	8	86	49	35	30	0.47	0.14	1	76.03	-2.32	97	168
Wenatchee	53	104	80	8	210	50	140	50	0.24	0.17	1	5.39	-2.39	69	63
Yakima AP	48	105	78	9	198	61	128	61	0.11	0.07	1	7.02	-0.50	93	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	51	105	77	11	188	76	118	73	0.48	0.27	2	15.49	-4.19	79	84
Deer Park	44	102	74	6	168	38	98	37	0.00	-0.21	0	21.12	3.78	122	120
Spokane AP	51	102	77	9	189	61	119	60	0.20	0.06	1	13.85	-1.58	90	110
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	54	107	81	7	220	48	150	48	0.20	0.13	1	5.77	-1.02	85	64
Moses Lake	47	108	80	6	211	39	141	39	0.04	-0.03	1	5.78	-1.01	85	66
Quincy	52	103	79	9	202	58	132	58	0.21	0.14	1	6.28	-1.06	86	60
Ritzville	49	106	78	10	195	65	125	63	0.10	0.01	2	9.93	-0.78	93	78
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	58	112	84	8	241	50	171	50	0.16	0.16	1	5.64	-0.44	93	51
Pasco	49	109	80	6	213	43	143	42	0.41	0.41	1	5.94	-1.08	85	58
Pullman	43	103	73	9	160	57	90	53	0.00	-0.17	0	17.62	-2.22	89	109
Walla Walla AP	52	109	83	9	232	59	162	59	0.02	-0.12	2	14.79	-3.62	80	102
Whitman Mission	45	108	79	9	204	59	134	59	0.18	0.09	1	13.17	0.28	102	96
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	45	100	75	7	173	43	104	42	0.03	-0.18	1	20.52	-3.68	85	118
Lewiston ID	54	110	83	10	229	63	159	63	0.07	-0.07	2	10.04	-1.27	89	103

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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